

**What is claimed is:**

- 1 1. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising steps of:  
2 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query information  
3 includes at least genealogical information corresponding to a user-sought entity.  
4 searching a database for the query information, the database including a  
5 plurality of records, each record containing directory listing information for an entity;  
6 and  
7 presenting a query result to the user.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a central database.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a distributed database.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the genealogical information includes one of a  
2 parent's name and a sibling's name.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.
- 1 9. A method for providing a directory listing, the method comprising steps of:  
2 receiving query information from a user;  
3 searching a database for a directory listing corresponding to the query  
4 information, wherein the database includes a plurality of records, each record

5 containing directory listing information for an entity;  
6 presenting a query result to the user;  
7 requesting genealogical information corresponding to the query information;  
8 receiving the genealogical information from the user;  
9 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the genealogical  
10 information; and  
11 presenting a genealogical query result to the user.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 12. The method of claim 9 wherein the database is a central database.

1 13. The method of claim 9 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 14. The method of claim 9 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1 15. The method of claim 9 wherein the genealogical information includes at least a  
2 parent's name or a sibling's name.

1 16. The method of claim 9 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 17. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:  
2 linking a first record in a database to a second record in the database when the  
3 first and second records contain chronologically different information corresponding to a  
4 same entity;  
5 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought entity;

6           searching the database for listings corresponding to the query information,  
7    wherein said database includes a plurality of records, each record containing directly  
8    listing information for an entity;  
9           presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes at least  
10   one indicator for each listing that is linked to other listings in the database.

1    18.    The method of claim 17, further comprising the step:

2           repeatedly presenting linked listings to the user when the user activates the  
3    indictor, wherein the linked listings are presented with at least one indicator when the  
4    linked listing is linked to other listings in the database.

1    19.    The method of claim 17, wherein a first indicator is presented when the listing is  
2    linked to a chronologically older listing in the database, and a second indicator is  
3    presented when the listing is linked to a chronologically newer listing in the database.

1    20.    The method of claim 17, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1    21.    The method of claim 17, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2    from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1    22.    The method of claim 17 wherein the database is a central database.

1    23.    The method of claim 17 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1    24.    The method of claim 17 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2    number.

1    25.    The method of claim 17, wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed  
2    over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1    26.    A method for providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:

2           receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought entity;

3           searching a database for database listings corresponding to the query information,  
4   wherein said database includes a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
5   listing information and an accuracy data field corresponding to an entity; and  
6           presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes the  
7   contents of the accuracy field for each directory listing presented.

1   27.    The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding  
2   to a last date on which the directory listing information was most likely known to be  
3   accurate.

1   28.    The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding  
2   to a last date on which the directory listing information was verified to be accurate.

1   29.    The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a number  
2   corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was most likely  
3   known to be accurate.

1   30.    The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a number  
2   corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was verified to  
3   be accurate.

1   31.    The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a percentage  
2   corresponding to a likelihood that the directory listing information is accurate.

1   32.    The method of claim 26, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1   33.    The method of claim 26, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2   from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1   34.    The method of claim 26 wherein the database is a central database.

1   35.    The method of claim 26 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 36. The method of claim 26 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1 37. The method of claim 26 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 38. A method of providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:  
2 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query information  
3 includes one of a telephone number and an email address.  
4 searching a database for the query information, the database including a  
5 plurality of records, each record containing directory listing information for an entity;  
6 searching the Internet for the query information; and  
7 presenting a query result to the user including results from the database search  
8 and the Internet search.

1 39. The method of claim 38, further comprising the step:  
2 defining an area code portion, an exchange portion, and a number portion  
3 corresponding to the telephone number, when the query information includes the  
4 telephone number;  
5 wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for telephone  
6 numbers on web pages, said telephone numbers on web pages including one or more  
7 of the area code portion, the exchange portion, and the number portion, regardless of a  
8 presentation format on the web pages.

1 40. The method of claim 38, further comprising the step:  
2 defining a username portion and a domain name portion corresponding to the  
3 email address, when the query information includes the email address;

4            wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for email  
5 addresses on web pages, said email addresses on web pages including at least the  
6 username portion and the domain name portion.

1    41.    The method of claim 38, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1    42.    The method of claim 38, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1    43.    The method of claim 38 wherein the database is a central database.

1    44.    The method of claim 38 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1    45.    The method of claim 38 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1    46.    The method of claim 38 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed  
2 over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1    47.    A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:  
2            a database including a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3 listing information for an entity;  
4            a server computer adapted to perform the steps:

5                    receiving query information from a user, wherein said query  
6                    information includes at least genealogical information  
7                    corresponding to a user-sought entity.

8                    searching the database for the query information; and

9                    presenting a query result to the user.

1    48.    The system of claim 47, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1    49.    The system of claim 47, wherein the step of receiving the query information

2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 50. The system of claim 47 wherein the database is a central database.

1 51. The system of claim 47 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 52. The system of claim 47 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1 53. The system of claim 47 wherein the genealogical information includes at least  
2 one of a parent's name and a sibling's name.

1 54. The system of claim 47 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 55. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:  
2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3 listing information for an entity;  
4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:  
5 receiving query information from a user;  
6 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the query  
7 information;  
8 presenting a query result to the user;  
9 requesting genealogical information corresponding to the query  
10 information;  
11 receiving the genealogical information from the user;  
12 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the  
13 genealogical information; and  
14 presenting a genealogical query result to the user.

1 56. The system of claim 55, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 57. The system of claim 55, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 58. The system of claim 55 wherein the database is a central database.

1 59. The system of claim 55 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 60. The system of claim 55 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1 61. The system of claim 55 wherein the genealogical information includes at least  
2 a parent's name or a sibling's name.

1 62. The system of claim 55 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 63. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:

2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3 listing information for an entity, wherein a first record in the database is linked to a  
4 second record in the database when the first and second records contain chronologically  
5 different information corresponding to a same entity;

6 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:

7 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought  
8 entity;

9 searching the database for listings corresponding to the query  
10 information;



11                   presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes at  
12                   least one indicator for each listing that is linked to other listings in  
13                   the database.

1   64.    The system of claim 63, wherein the server computer is adapted to recursively  
2   present a linked listing to the user when the user activates the indicator, wherein the linked  
3   listing is presented with at least one indicator when the linked listing is linked to at least  
4   one other listing in the database.

1   65.    The system of claim 63, wherein the server computer is adapted to present a first  
2   indicator when the listing is linked to a chronologically older listing in the database, and  
3   to present a second indicator when the listing is linked to a chronologically newer listing  
4   in the database.

1   66.    The system of claim 63, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1   67.    The system of claim 63, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2   from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1   68.    The system of claim 63 wherein the database is a central database.

1   69.    The system of claim 63 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1   70.    The system of claim 63 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2   number.

1   71.    The system of claim 63, wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed  
2   over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1   72.    A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:  
2           a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3   listing information and an accuracy data field corresponding to an entity;

4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:  
5 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought  
6 entity;  
7 searching the database for database listings corresponding to the query  
8 information;  
9 presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes  
10 the contents of the accuracy field for each directory listing  
11 presented.

1 73. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding to  
2 a last date on which the directory listing information was most likely known to be  
3 accurate.

1 74. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding to  
2 a last date on which the directory listing information was verified to be accurate.

1 75. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a number  
2 corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was most likely  
3 known to be accurate.

1 76. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a number  
2 corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was verified to  
3 be accurate.

1 77. The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a percentage  
2 corresponding to a likelihood that the directory listing information is accurate.

1 78. The system of claim 72, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 79. The system of claim 72, wherein the step of receiving the query information

2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 80. The system of claim 72 wherein the database is a central database.

1 81. The system of claim 72 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 82. The system of claim 72 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1 83. The system of claim 72 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 84. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:  
2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3 listing information for an entity;  
4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:  
5 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query  
6 information includes one of a telephone number and an email  
7 address.  
8 searching the database for the query information;  
9 searching the Internet for the query information; and  
10 presenting a query result to the user including results from the database  
11 search and the Internet search.

1 85. The system of claim 84, wherein the server computer is adapted to perform the  
2 step:

3 defining an area code portion, an exchange portion, and a number portion  
4 corresponding to the telephone number, when the query information includes the  
5 telephone number;

6 wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for telephone  
7 numbers on web pages, said telephone numbers on web pages including one or more  
8 of the area code portion, the exchange portion, and the number portion, regardless of a  
9 presentation format on the web pages.

1 86. The system of claim 84, wherein the server computer is adapted to perform the  
2 step:

3 defining a username portion and a domain name portion corresponding to the  
4 email address, when the query information includes the email address;

5 wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for email  
6 addresses on web pages, said email addresses on web pages including at least the  
7 username portion and the domain name portion.

1 87. The system of claim 84, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1 88. The system of claim 84, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 89. The system of claim 84 wherein the database is a central database.

1 90. The system of claim 84 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 91. The system of claim 84 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1 92. The system of claim 84 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed  
2 over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 93. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising steps of:

2 (1) presenting to a user a plurality of choices;

3 (2) waiting for the user to select at least one of said choices; and

4           (3) performing a search for a directory listing in accordance with the user  
5           selection.

1    94.    The method of claim 93, wherein the choices comprise various databases in  
2    which to perform the search.

1    95.    The method of claim 94, wherein the various databases comprise genealogical  
2    information, historical information, accuracy information, and world wide web  
3    information.

1    96.    A computer system for providing a directory listing, comprising:  
2           a processor;  
3           a memory for storing computer readable instructions;  
4           wherein when the computer readable instructions are executed, the computer  
5    system is adapted to perform the steps:  
6                   presenting to a user a plurality of choices;  
7                   waiting for the user to select at least one of said choices; and  
8                   performing a search for a directory listing in accordance with the user  
9    selection.

1    97.    The method of claim 96, wherein the choices comprise various databases in  
2    which to perform the search.

1    98.    The method of claim 97, wherein the various databases comprise genealogical  
2    information, historical information, accuracy information, and world wide web  
3    information.